



**MESSAGE FROM  
THE MOST HONOURABLE PORTIA SIMPSON MILLER,  
PRIME MINISTER  
MARKING DRUG AWARENESS MONTH 2012**

Each November, we renew our deep commitment to fight against increase in the number of persons struggling with substance abuse, and remind ourselves that its existence is a bane against peoples, communities and countries across the world. We are not alone in this fight.

It is nevertheless the case that in countries such as ours with a relatively small population and an economy facing constraints and challenges, every attention must be given making the fullest possible use of our human resources, especially the young people, as they are central to policies and programmes that address human dignity, education, training and productivity.

I salute the work of the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) which has performed an invaluable service for the past thirty years in taking the drug awareness message to the Jamaican people and especially commend this year's focus which correctly identifies the thrust to empower our young people through information, advocacy and positive support.

I salute every young person in our society who has not only demonstrated the value and satisfaction gained from living a drug-free life but has encouraged his or her peers to do likewise. I thank every parent, guardian, teacher, social worker, volunteer, medical specialist, or any other responsible adult who has supported the work of the NCDA in promoting positive attitudes and healthy lifestyles among the young people of our land.

In our advocacy and action to safeguard the lives and the future prospects of our young people, we are all not simply each other's keeper, but each other's brothers and sisters, and must come together to create a drug-free Jamaica, and a better world.

I pray the events of this year's Drug Awareness Month will inspire us all to continue and increase our efforts at creating a drug-free society and a Jamaica of which all of us can be truly proud.

The Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, ON, MP  
Prime Minister  
October 31, 2012